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IF YOU PLAN TO MAKE WINTER PLAY SUITS

Many mothers are planning to start making play suits for the runabouts before really cold weather sets in. There are several suitable fabrics that answer the requirements of being warm, pliable, light in weight, soft and smooth in texture, easy to clean, resistant to soil, and durable. Cotton suede and wools with the texture of broadcloth are good examples. Prickly, scratchy wool, and harsh, stiff cottons are avoided for this particular use. Gay colors afford protection because they are readily seen by motorists, and children enjoy wearing them.

In choosing a play-suit pattern, one thinks first how the child will get into and out of the garment, and whether he can do so without help. A long center-front opening is important. A slide fastener is secure, weatherproof, and encourages self-dressing. An automatic lock will prevent its working open.

The back needs to have easy looseness across the shoulders to get the suit on and off readily. Wide raglan sleeves allow extreme arm movements, adapt to growth, and fit comfortably even when a sweater or extra indoor clothing has to be worn. The seat should allow unrestricted bending. A good design provides wide, roomy legs that blouse slightly over knit anklets, allowing free knee action and room for growth. Knit wristlets

and anklets can be made by hand or bought ready-made. They fit snugly but have plenty of stretch.

A good play suit has a low, even, rolling collar to keep out cold wind while allowing head and neck freedom. It will have roomy pockets placed at hand level with openings that slant to the side; then the corners will not be so subject to tearing.

Another detail that makes for strength and comfort is a straight band of material through the crotch rather than seaming the back and front together.

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